## In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A resistive element controllable to irreversibly decrease its value, comprising:

several polysilicon resistors connected in series between two input/output terminals of the resistive element; and

an assembly of switches, connected to turn the series connection into a parallel association of said resistors between two programming terminals, the two programming terminals being different from said input/output terminals, intended to receive a supply voltage.

2. (Previously Presented) The resistive element of claim 1, wherein said switch assembly comprises one more switch than the resistive element comprises resistors, one of the switches connecting one of said input/output terminals to one of said programming terminals.

3. (Previously Presented) The resistive element of claim 2, wherein said switches comprise MOS transistors with a number of N-channel transistors greater by one than the number of P-channel transistors.

4. (Original) The resistive element of claim 1, wherein said switch assembly comprises as many switches as the resistive element comprises resistors, one of said input/output terminals being the same as one of said programming resistors.

5. (Original) The resistive element of claim 4, wherein said switches are formed of MOS transistors distributed half and half between P-channel transistors and N-channel transistors.

6. (Previously Presented) The resistive element of claim 1, wherein each interconnection point between two resistors is connected to a first terminal of a switch of the

assembly, the second terminal of which is connected to one of said programming terminals.

7. (Previously Presented) The resistive element of claim 1, wherein each of the resistors has an identical nominal value.

8. (Previously Presented) The resistive element of claim 1, wherein said programming is performed by imposing in each of the resistors a constraint current greater than a current for which the value of this resistance exhibits a maximum.

9. (Previously Presented) The resistive element of claim 8, wherein said constraint current stands beyond an operating current range of the resistive element when the resistors are in series.

10. (New) A resistive element controllable to irreversibly decrease its value, comprising:

several polysilicon resistors connected in series between two input/output terminals of the resistive element;

an assembly of switches, connected to turn the series connection into a parallel association of said resistors between two programming terminals intended to receive a supply voltage;

wherein the assembly of switches comprises one more switch than the resistive element comprises resistors, one of the switches connecting one of said input/output terminals to one of said programming terminals; and

wherein the assembly of switches further comprises MOS transistors with a number of N-channel transistors greater by one than the number of P-channel transistors.

11. (New) The resistive element of claim 10, wherein each interconnection point between two resistors is connected to a first terminal of a switch of the assembly, the second terminal of which is connected to one of said programming terminals.

12. (New) The resistive element of claim 10, wherein each of the resistors has an

identical nominal value.

13. (New) The resistive element of claim 10, wherein said programming is performed by imposing in each of the resistors a constraint current greater than a current for which the value of this resistance exhibits a maximum.

14. (New) The resistive element of claim 13, wherein said constraint current stands beyond an operating current range of the resistive element when the resistors are in series.

15. (New) A resistive element controllable to irreversibly decrease its value, comprising:

several polysilicon resistors connected in series between two input/output terminals of the resistive element;

an assembly of switches, connected to turn the series connection into a parallel association of said resistors between two programming terminals intended to receive a supply voltage;

wherein said switch assembly comprises as many switches as the resistive element comprises resistors, one of said input/output terminals being the same as one of said programming resistors; and

wherein said switches are formed of MOS transistors distributed half and half between P-channel transistors and N-channel transistors.

16. (New) The resistive element of claim 15, wherein each interconnection point between two resistors is connected to a first terminal of a switch of the assembly, the second terminal of which is connected to one of said programming terminals.

17. (New) The resistive element of claim 15, wherein each of the resistors has an identical nominal value.

18. (New) The resistive element of claim 15, wherein said programming is performed by imposing in each of the resistors a constraint current greater than a current for

which the value of this resistance exhibits a maximum.

19. (New) The resistive element of claim 18, wherein said constraint current stands beyond an operating current range of the resistive element when the resistors are in series.